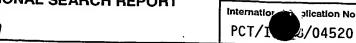
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H03M13/03 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO3M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. Α BUTTIGIEG V ET AL: "On variable-length 1,2 error-correcting codes" INFORMATION THEORY, 1994. PROCEEDINGS., 1994 IEEE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRONDHEIM, NORWAY 27 JUNE-1 JULY 1994, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE 27 June 1994 (1994-06-27), page 507 XP010135468 ISBN: 0-7803-2015-8 the whole document -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another clation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the International search report 18 March 2004 25/03/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Devergranne, C

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